

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01715 151059Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06  
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01  
/112 W

-----151228Z 037686 /21

R 151038Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6049

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTW, ENRG, TS, AG, IT

SUBJECT: ALGERIA TO ITALY PIPELINE

REF: ALGIERS 5977

1. SUMMARY: WE ALSO HAVE IMPRESSION HERE THAT ALGERIA  
TO ITALY GAS PIPELINE QUESTION NOT ENTIRELY CLOSED. THIS  
CORRESPONDS BOTH TO HOPES OF SEVERAL SENIOR ENERGY ADVISORS  
TO GOT AND TO REPORT THAT ALGERIANS MAY BE DISPOSED TO  
HELP REOPEN ISSUE BY FACILITATING SWEETER DEAL FOR TUNISIA.  
COUNSELOR ITALIAN EMBASSY, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING SEVERAL  
IRRITANTS IN CURRENT RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA, SAYS HIS  
GOVERNMENT IS SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN PIPELINE THAT IT  
PLANS TO DISPATCH ENVOY TO ALGIERS AND TUNIS TO EXPLORE  
MOVEMENT ON ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. MOTIVATED BY INDUSTRIAL NEED FOR NATURAL GAS AND RESERVA-  
TIONS IN RESPECT TO TUNISIAN OFFSHORE (MISKAR) GAS PROJECT,  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01715 151059Z

SEVERAL SUBCABINET GOT OFFICIALS EXPRESS HOPE THAT AGREEMENT  
STILL MAY BE REACHED WITH ITALY ON ALGERIA TO ITALY PIPELINE  
TRANSITING TUNISIA.

3. LOCAL RUMOR HAS IT THAT DURING HIS EARLY FEBRUARY VISIT  
ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA MAY HAVE BEEN PERSUADED  
TO OFFER ITALIANS SLIGHTLY BETTER DEAL WITH UNDERSTANDING

LATTER WOULD PASS BENEFITS ON TO GOT.

4. COUNSELOR RUGGIRELLO OF ITALIAN EMBASSY TELLS US GOI NOT INCLINED OTHERWISE TO BETTER ITS OFFER OF 5 PER CENT THROUGHPUT OR ONE BILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY (GOT SOURCE CALCULATES 5 PERCENT AT 600 MILLION CUBIC METERS). BOTH SOURCES INDICATED TUNISIANS ASKING 10 PERCENT BUT ITALIANS OFFERING ONLY 5 PER CENT OF THROUGHPUT. GOI RUGGIRELLO MAINTAINS, NOW HAS POLICY PREFERENCE FOR LNG APPROACH AND ONLY WILLING TO PAY "MARKET RATE" FOR PIPELINE SERVICES--NOT TO HAGGLE OVER DIVISION OF SAVINGS FROM PIPELINE.

5. RUGGIRELLO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "ROVING AMBASSADOR" FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL SOON VISIT ALGIERS AND TUNIS TO SEE WHETHER THERE IS REAL MOVEMENT IN ALGERIAN AND/OR TUNISIAN POSITIONS ON PIPELINE. HE ALSO SAID ALGERIANS NECESSARILY PART OF NEGOTIATIONS SINCE ANY ADDITIONAL GAS GOT WISHED TO BUY WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLD TO IT BY ALGERIANS. (TUNISIAN SOURCE INDICATED TO US THAT GOT EXPECTED OPTION TO BUY ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES FROM ITALIANS.)  
MULCAHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GAS PIPELINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TUNIS01715  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770088-0727  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770357/aaaabxup.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e5fc80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ALGIERS 5977  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3098911  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALGERIA TO ITALY PIPELINE  
**TAGS:** ELTN, ENRG, TS, AG, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e5fc80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009